Instructions for the installation and use of the

RABCO SL-8E TONE ARM

You have purchased the finest tone arm in the world. The SL-8E is a precision instrument which provides a scientifically correct mounting for the cartridge. The SL-8E enables the use of extremely low tracking forces, is free from tracking errors and completely eliminates "skating" forces found in all pivoted arms. With normal care and maintenance, the SL-8E will bring you the finest sound reproduction available for years to come.

RABCO, division of Jervis Corporation 55 Ames Court, Plainview, N.Y. 11803

UNPACKING INSTRUCTIONS

Remove the SL-8E from the carton. Remove accessories and all tape from the unit.

The SL-8E is shipped attached to its base mounting bracket. There are two screws at each end which serve to clamp the SL-8E to the bracket. Loosen, but do not remove these screws and slide the SL-8E up and off the bracket. *(See Figure 1).*

Open the box and remove all the parts before you begin the installation of the SL-8E.

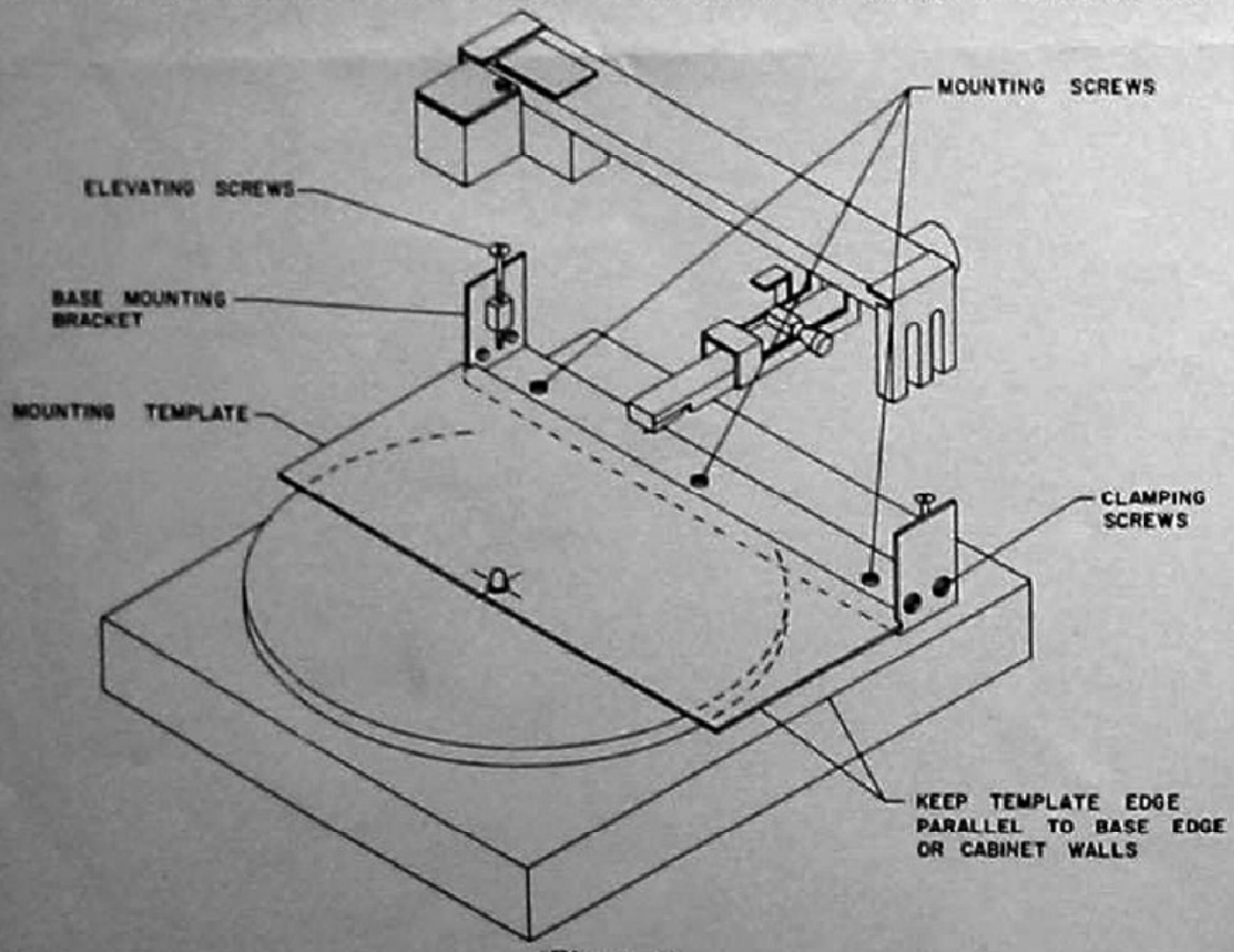
MOUNTING

Place the mounting template on the turntable, taking care to keep the edges parallel to the cabinet walls. It is advisable to wedge or tape the turntable to prevent it from turning during alignment.

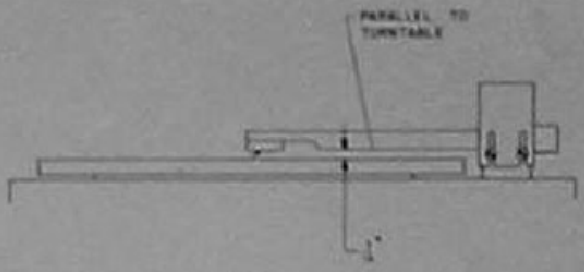
You will note that the template has 3 spindle holes and that we recommend using hole Number 1, however, the location of the base bracket is not critical. Due to the design of the SL-8E the bracket can be moved sideways, backwards or forwards at will. The cartridge holder can be extended so that the stylus is always over the center of the turntable spindle, and once this condition is met, the arm will always be tangent. Except for the esthetic value, it is not necessary to assure that the unit is parallel to the edge of the turntable base.

With the template in position, place the base mounting bracket against the notches as indicated. *(See Figure 1).* Mark the position of the three mounting holes and fasten with the supplied screws. You will note that the SL-8E has been supplied with a shim board which can be placed under the base bracket if necessary. When the SL-8E is used with the Thorens TD-125 and TD-150 turntables the shim board is required in order to keep the base bracket from touching the turntable base. The shim board is not necessary when using the Sony TTS 3000 turntable.

Now, slide the SL-8E back onto the bracket until it rests on the heads of the elevating screws. The SL-8E should be adjusted so that the cartridge holder is parallel to and 3/16" above the record surface with the stylus in contact with the record. *(See Figure 2).* The 3/16" is not a critical dimension, but merely a clearance for



(Figure 1)

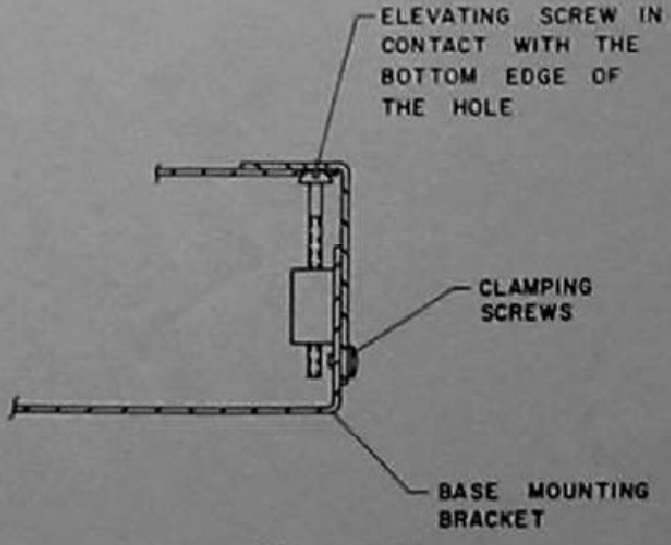


(Figure 2)

warped records. With most cartridges, 2 washers under each side of the cartridge will position the cartridge with at least 3/16" clearance. If you are using more than one cartridge and use extra plug in cartridge holders, shim the cartridges so that the clearance is the same for each unit. This will permit you to interchange cartridge holders without raising or lowering the unit.

To raise the SL-8E, unscrew the elevating screws, taking care to turn each screw the same number of turns. To lower the SL-8E tighten, or lower the elevating screws in the same manner. With your hand, exert a firm downward pressure on the SL-8E as you tighten the screws, making sure that the screw heads remain in contact with the bottom edge of the hole. *(See Figure 3)*. Should the heads of the elevating screws not line up with the holes during adjustment, a gentle side pressure on the screw will move it to the correct position. As long as the hole is in contact with the screw head, the screw will remain in the proper position. Once the arm has been adjusted to the proper height, the clamping screws on each end can be tightened.

Leveling (with a spirit level) is not as important as making sure that both ends of the unit are the same height from the base bracket. (i.e., parallel to the platter). It is quite adequate to measure from the base bracket to the top of the track at each end, and use the elevating screws to adjust to within 1/32" at both ends.



(Figure 3)

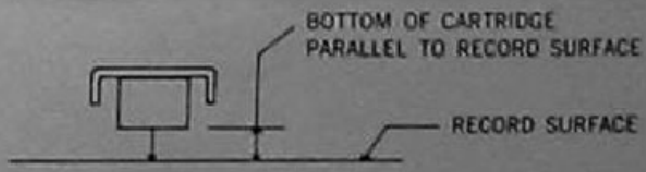
CARTRIDGE INSTALLATION

If you have purchased the SL-8E without a cartridge, it is a simple matter to install any other cartridge with the standard 1/2" hole spacing.

The cartridge fastens to the bottom of the cartridge holder with the two screws and nuts. *(See Figure 5)*. You will note that small plastic washers have been provided to lower the cartridge if needed. The cartridge should be adjusted so that the stylus is 3/16" below the bottom of the cartridge holder as shown in *Figure 2*. The number of washers used will depend on the dimensions of the particular cartridge to be used.

The cartridge holder plugs into the mounting block, and is then clamped with the knurled thumb screw. Always be sure that the thumb screw is loose when removing or installing the cartridge holder.

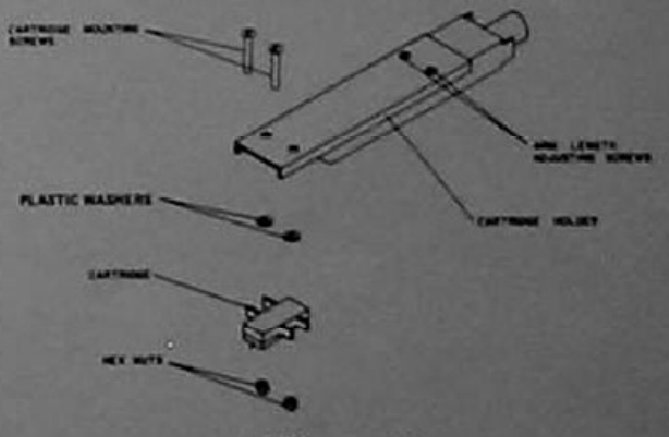
It is important that the cartridge be parallel to the record surface in all directions. Reference has been made to this point in *Figure 2* of the instruction manual, however, it is also necessary to have the cartridge parallel as shown in *Figure 4*.



(Figure 4)

We have provided for this adjustment by allowing rotational freedom of movement in the socket. The cartridge holder can be rotated until the cartridge is parallel to the record surface. Then it can be clamped securely with the thumb screw.

To adjust the position of the cartridge in the cartridge holder, move the carriage so that the cartridge holder is over the record spindle. Take caution to move the carriage



(Figure 5)

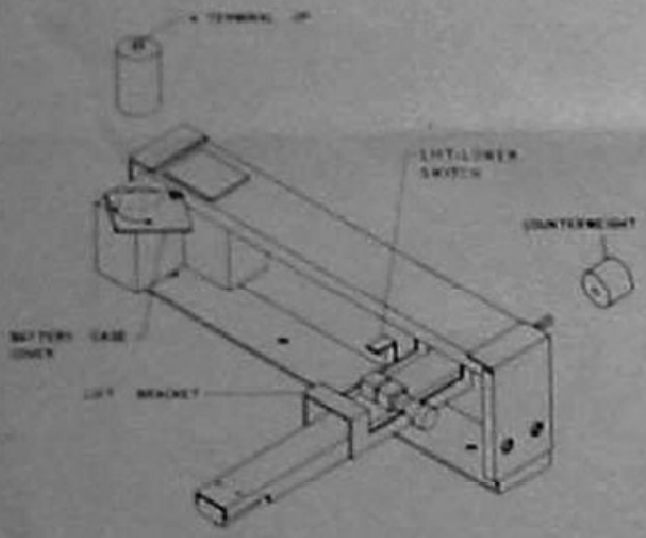
only when the arm is in the lift position. (See Operation Instructions). With the cartridge length adjusting screws loose, move the cartridge until the stylus is over the center of the record spindle. Now tighten the screws.

The audio cable in the cartridge holder is color coded as follows:

Red—Right Channel hot
White—Left Channel hot
Green—Right Channel ground
Black—Left Channel ground.

COUNTERWEIGHT INSTALLATION

The counterweight now can be installed on the screw. *(See Figure 6)*. Instructions for the adjustment of the counterweight are covered in the section on Operating Instructions.



(Figure 6)

INTERCONNECTION TO THE AMPLIFIER

A standard stereo jack is located on the rear of the SL-8E. The right channel is marked with an "R" and the left is marked with an "L". In addition, there is a ground terminal marked with a "G" for connection to the ground terminal of your amplifier.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

ADJUSTING STYLUS FORCE

The SL-8E is capable of tracking with only a small fraction of a gram of vertical force on the stylus. However, it is recommended that the tracking force be adjusted to within the limits specified by the manufacturer of the particular cartridge to be used.

The counterweight is designed to change the tracking force by one gram for each revolution. The counterweight is marked with reference numbers so that its position can easily be determined.

It will be necessary to have the chrome lift bracket in the down position. Install the battery, depress the lift-lower switch and hold for a count of two. You will notice that the bracket will move down. Once down, open the battery housing cover to remove the power and proceed with the adjustment of the tracking force.

To obtain the proper tracking force, it will be necessary to first balance the arm to zero force with the cartridge in place. This balance position should be reached with the stylus almost in contact with the record surface to result in accurate readings from the counterweight. To do this, screw the counterweight in until the arm balances. From now on, each complete revolution of the counterweight will add a single gram of vertical force on the stylus. A half-revolution will add a half gram, a quarter of a revolution will add a quarter gram, etc.

OPERATING THE SL-8E

You will note that the cartridge holder is held in the lift position by the chrome lift bracket. In this position, the arm can be moved along the track in either direction by applying a slight force with your hand on the chrome lift bracket. It is not advisable to move the arm along the track once it is in the latched position, however, in cueing down to the record, you can move the arm along the track in order to "Zero in" on the selected groove. The arm does not latch until the stylus is in contact with the record surface.

To lower the stylus to the record, depress the lift-lower switch and hold for a count of two. The bracket will then lower slowly, and it can be moved while lowering in order to obtain the desired position.

In its initial contact with the record, you may notice that the arm is not perpendicular to the track. This condition is normal, and will be corrected by the Servo System within a few seconds.

To lift the stylus from the record, again press the yellow switch lever and hold for a count of two. The arm will slowly raise. It will also lift automatically at the end of the record.

WARRANTY

The SL-8E is carefully manufactured from the finest materials and components available. Your purchase is supported by a one year parts and labor warranty. Please send in your warranty card immediately.